

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 14-17, 19-22, 24-27 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a display unit configured to display a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction unit configured to extract from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution rule for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed on the print setting screen ~~from the head of a queue~~;

a determination unit configured to determine whether ~~or not~~ a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing unit configured to, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into ~~[[the]]~~ an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by

said extraction unit.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising an updating unit configured to a user interface of a printer driver based on [[the]] an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule by said processing unit.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said processing unit is configured to, if it is determined in said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted by said extraction unit, describe delay information in a status variable, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 16,~~ An information processing apparatus comprising:

an extraction unit configured to extract a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a queue;

a determination unit configured to determine whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over

other rules; and

a processing unit configured to, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit,

wherein said processing unit is configured to, if it is determined in said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted by said extraction unit, describe delay information in a status variable, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing unit is further configured to count [[the]] an number of times that the status variables described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit when [[the]] an count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a print setting display step of displaying a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction step of extracting, from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution rule for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed in the print setting display step from the head of a queue;

a determination step of determining whether ~~or not~~ a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into ~~[[the]]~~ an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising an updating step of updating a user interface of a printer driver based on ~~[[the]]~~ an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule in said processing step.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 21, An~~
information processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a
queue;

a determination step of determining whether a predetermined control symbol is
included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control
symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other
rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control
symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the
control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from
which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in
said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule

extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing step further counts [[the]] a number of times that the status variables having described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step when [[the]] a count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

a print setting display step of displaying a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction step of extracting, from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed in the print setting display step from the head of a queue;

a determination step of determining whether ~~or not~~ a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into ~~[[the]]~~ an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 24, further comprising an updating step of updating a user interface of a printer driver based on ~~[[the]]~~ an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule in said processing step.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 24, wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict

resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables having described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) ~~The program according to claim 26;~~ A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a queue;

a determination step of determining whether or not a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the

control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables having described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing step further counts [[the]] a number of times that the status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step when [[the]] a count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 24, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.